Impact of Imports of Software Packages

2578. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any study to find out the impact of indiscriminate imports of software packages on the domestic industry under the new software policy, particularly when many internationally available general purpose software packages have been indigenously developed and substantial investments have been made to develop specialised applications packages;

(b) if so, what has been the outcome thereof; and

(c) what steps are contemplated by Government to safeguard the interests of the domesic software industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) The new software policy will not result in indiscriminate import of software packages as imports are allowed only by three categories of importers:

(i) Actual Users including Government departments and computer manufacturers;

(ii) Software houses registered with the Department of Electronics for the purpose of stock and sale; and

(iii) Department of Electronics for stock and sale.

In view of this, indiscriminate import of software packages is not likely to arise.

(c) The interests of domestic software industry are safeguard by the following measures :

(i) Actual user, both industrial and non-industrial, can utilise the imported software only for their own acutal use.

(ii) There is Department of Electronics control over software houses registered with it. If any misuse is detected, the registration will be wihdrawn.

(iii) Tenders floated by Government for the procurement of software, will particularly emphasise on domestic software where available to the specifications required.

(iv) As the manpower cost for software development in India is a fraction of that of software develpoed in developed countries, the indigenously developed software will have an intrinsic price advantage over import. In addition, a protective custom duty over imported software is also available.

(v) A software Development Agency has been created under the Deparment of Electronics for promoting indigenous development of software and their utilisation within the country and export.

CBI Investigation in malpractices in Syndicate Bank

2579. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that two cases of alleged malpractices in various branche of the Syndicate Bank are under C.B.I. investigation;

(b) if so, whether the C.B.I. has submitted any report on their findings in this regard; and

(c) if so, the findings of the enquiry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) As the Hon'ble Member has not indicated the particulars of the cases, such as the name of the bank branch etc., it is not possible to furnish the details sought.

Investigation into Loans to Reliance Intudtries

2580. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the investigation into the loans given by banks to companies associated with Reliance Industries Limited has established misuse of fund;